

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board of Directors Meeting
January 12, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Courtyards at Cutler Club House – 2403 San Mateo NE, Albuquerque

Call to Order: President Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Members present: Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Katherine Campbell, Chris Chandler, Jane Gaziano, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Jody Larson, Richard Mason, and Linda Moscarella.

Absent: Diane Albert, Lora Lucero, Cathy Mathews

Approval of Agenda – New Business: New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes of November 17, 2007 minutes approved with corrections.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Board members suggested that the Treasurer's Report include a "Remaining Balance" column for each budget category mentioned in the report so that progress of the budget category may be made.

Motion: Dick Mason moved that the current CD located out of state be moved into a NM bank that offers a reasonable interest rate. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Audit or Information Review of Accounts: was mentioned but not acted upon.

Membership Report: Aldrich distributed a summary sheet to each local NM Leagues that showed the current status of information in the LWVUS member database. Although it seems like the local Leagues are losing members, purging of non-renewal memberships and addition of new member names are causing only small changes in the numbers.

La Palabra: Campbell announced that future *La Palabra* mailing labels will be based on active L1, L2, L4, R1, R2, R4, N1, N2 and N4 members with national database addresses in New Mexico. If there are other people (including honorary, no longer active or other long-time members who have left New Mexico, and who therefore don't show up when we look at the national database, as well as officials, etc.), they will be placed on our courtesy list of recipients. The courtesy list also includes extra copies for membership chairs.

Unfinished Business

League Day – Final Plans: Plans were reviewed and assignments for manning the Round House table were made. Major areas of focus: ethics, health care, election reform, drug policy, and land use and water (Natural Resources). Health Care legislative handouts were available at the meeting. On League Day, the Health Security Act will be supported. Legislation related to the following will be the focus:

- Ethics: Legislation for an Independent Ethics Commission, public finance of all state races, and limits on finance for all state elections.
- Election Reform: Legislation related to unique voter identification numbers. Questions arose about the State League taking action to initiate legislation about this issue. The standing committee, Voters and Election Committee, would be a contact for this kind of legislation. (See further information under Strategic Planning.)
- Natural resources involving land use and water issues: funding for regional planning,

Education Legislation: Jane Gaziano developed a Fact Sheet about this issue that should be included in Legislative Fact Packet. On the Education Priorities document, the date must be changed to 2008 rather than 2007. When bills numbers are available, State League will support specific legislation related to formula funding for education.

Action: When bill numbers are assigned, the information will be passed to members of LWVNM Action Committee.

Policies and Procedures:

Advocacy: The proposed policy was reviewed. Editorial changes were suggested to ensure parallelism among headings.

Motion: Goldfarb moved that members who are lobbying on local League issues must register as lobbyists for their local Leagues. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion: Gaziano moved that Item B read State League Action—no “s”. Seconded and approved.

Motion: Mason moved adoption of policy. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Coalition Guidelines: Changes that were suggested during the electronic meeting and during the November 17 meeting were reviewed again to ensure that all changes were incorporated. Editing comments were noted. Aldrich moved adoption of the policy. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Communications: Policy was reviewed. The lobbying policy developed by Bonnie Burn for local League purposes is replaced by this policy. There was discussion about the location of Office files since none are available at present. Having inventories of LWVNM materials stored at UNM, elsewhere, and in private collections would be useful. Correct name and address of UNM building that current stores LWVNM files is needed. Web site address and contact information for UNM files is required.

Motion: Goldfarb moved that the policy on communications be adopted. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Action: Mason and Campbell will work to acquire inventories of storage files and appropriate location and contact information.

Financial Policies and Procedures: This document combined information from several documents. Editorial changes were suggested. The word, audit, was replaced by the words, financial review, because they more accurately reflected the verification of the financial state of the League at the end of a fiscal year. Under Operating Procedures, item #8 was removed. Appendix II was reviewed, and will be retained as a part of the financial policy. Appendix III – Board Expenses – Discussion involved reporting of in-kind contributions and a separate paragraph was added under the heading State board business that reads as follows:

In-Kind Expenses: Donating expenses related to League work (in-kind donations) is encouraged. Actual expenses should be reported except for car travel, which should be shown as the actual purchase price of gas. Items 2 through 7 under the reimbursement guidelines apply. The Reimbursement of Expenses form should be used and clearing marked “In-Kind Expenses.”

Motion: Chandler moved to accept this In-Kind Expense paragraph. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion: Mason moved to accept the entire procedure. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Voters Guide: Deferred to another meeting as work continues on the portfolio description. Jennice Fishburn (771-2641) is a potential editor.

Action: Campbell will contact Fishburn when the portfolio description is completed.

New Business

Council (May 17 in Los Alamos): Approximately 30 people are expected, Chandler reported that catering arrangements are being made, and a speaker has been identified, Charles Keller, retired scientist from Los Alamos who will speak on climate warming. Hotels, Friday night dinner, and registration need to be arranged. Registration Fee needs to be determined. Final information will be available by the March 8 Board meeting and will be published in *La Palabra*. Delegates will include the president or alternate plus one representative from each local League and MALS will have one representative. Members of the State Board will also attend. Registration will be paid for the State Board members. Local League presidents on the State Board will go as local League presidents rather than State Board members.

Budget Committee: The Committee will consist of one representative from each local League, and the Treasurer and President, as ex officio members. A chair will be selected from among the committee members. Las Cruces representative is Cathy Mathews. Other board presidents will seek representatives. A suggestion was made to consider two-year budgets that would be voted on at the Convention..

Portfolio Development: Now that portfolio descriptions are being developed formal adoption and filing needs to be determined. There was agreement that these should appear on the web site for ready reference and no further copies sent to board members. Again, the portfolio description for Program directors was raised, and it was generally agreed that there should be one generic portfolio description.

(Note from Meeting Minutes 11/17/2007 – Portfolio Development: “There was general agreement that a generic portfolio description for Program Directors would be appropriate. Adding an item that involves any legislative action related to their area is appropriate. Each of the [program] directors could attach an Activity Schedule that would apply to their area of interest.”)

Action: Campbell has suggestions for the Secretary and *La Palabra* portfolio description that she will raise with Burn.

Action: Mason will generate a portfolio description for Program Directors and collaborate with other Program Directors to develop one generic description.

New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty: Mason reported that the State League was asked to join this coalition. Its goal is to repeal the death penalty in New Mexico. Board members felt comfortable that there were no conflicting goals among the two groups. Perhaps funding may be available from outside organizations for this effort. Politically, 2009 may be the year for passage of legislation to do away with the death penalty.

Motion: Mason moved that LWVNM join the coalition. Seconded, and approved. Mason will serve as the League’s representative on this coalition.

Strategic Planning

Two goals of Strategic Plans were considered: (1) to increase League visibility and (2) to be a key leader on the election process. A review of action take to date followed:

- Local League presidents were sent emails asking for representatives for the communications committee. Some names were submitted; others will follow.

- League Day at the Legislature should be publicized. Kathy Campbell will develop a press release. Press releases should include information about the legislation that we are supporting. Local Leagues may choose to send letters-to-the editor of local newspapers speaking to one legislative issue at a time. These issues were identified for possible publication: education funding formula, election reform, and the grass roots effort related to campaign finance and ethics reform. Other recommendations included getting on future Interim Committee agendas to make presentations about the issues the League supports.
- Web Sites: It was suggested that *La Palabra* should more prominently display the State web address on the front page beneath the title, *La Palabra*, and below the address on the back page. Items that create difficulty in using the LWVUS web site were mentioned, and Linda Moscarella will pass this information on.
- Lobbying/advocacy workshop was held in Albuquerque on December 8, 2007. About 40 people attended and good feedback was received. Ruth Hoffman and Diane Wood were suggested as potential presenters.
- County Clerks: Is there any legislative initiatives being taken by County Clerks to fix the unique voter identifiers? There was support among Board members that the State League initiate legislative action to remedy this bill. Possible contact is Mary Helen Garcia, who is the vice-chair of the House of Representatives standing committee, Voters and Elections Committee.

Action: Burn will contact County Election Supervisor and Mary Helen Garcia regarding legislation related to the unique voter identification.

Future opportunities for visibility and leadership in election process: Mason suggested that a Voter Registration Drive be initiated during the upcoming months that would encourage partnership with the media to promote voter registration. Locally, Leagues could partner with media to publicize their voter drive. Larsen asked if the Presidential VOTERS' Guide that appears on the LWVUS web site might be used in some way at the local League level. The poster "It sometimes takes a four letter word, VOTE" was shown to Board members and suggested as a tool to use during voter registration drives.

Committee Reports

Study Groups:

Fair Representation: (See report attached below)

Education Study Committee: (See two reports attached below)

Local League reports:

Los Alamos had a legislative preview, and Mason spoke on Action Committee legislative initiatives. Water Study is going forward and Calef attended a water symposium. A Fair Representative unit meeting is being scheduled in the near future..

Santa Fe: Diane Denish spoke at lunch and was impressive in her comments. Unit meetings on alternative energy were held. A number of consensus questions were asked, and the city's new energy director will address a general meeting on the same topic. Fair representation unit meetings are scheduled. League comments about the oil and gas ordinance were distributed to individual county commissioners. Voter registration was cancelled because the League was denied a voter registration table at a selected shopping mall because of insurance and workers compensation liability concerns.

[Albuquerque Bernalillo County](#): Busy time as League considered program planning, completed consensus on the immigration study, hosted elected officials, sponsored lobbying workshop, and listened to the president of UNM. In January legislative updates in unit meetings will be held, and the office is gearing up to answer questions about the Democratic Presidential Caucus. Note: For additional information, LWVNM has links to the Democratic Caucus.

[Greater Las Cruces](#): Annual Legislative Delegation Breakfast was held in December. Metro Court committee completed meetings with all members of the legislative delegation to educate and to seek support for a financial appropriation to do a feasibility study. January sought concurrence on our Solid Waste Recycling position revision and local program planning was initiated. Also a new member orientation will be held at the end of January. February Breakfast with a Leader will be Professor Wood (Retired), NMSU, on the topic of water.

[Next Scheduled Meetings:](#)

- March 8th, NMT, Skeen Library, Socorro, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

[Announcements:](#)

[Travel Concepts International](#): League members who book their international travel through Travel Concepts earn a \$100 dividend of which \$50 goes to the local League and \$50 to the State League. (Marilyn Morgan)

[Future agenda items:](#)

- Voter Registration Drive

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Bonnie Burn, Secretary



League of Women Voters of New Mexico Job Description – StateWebmaster

Role: Maintain and update League website and list serves, to inform the public and League members of resources and events, particularly elections and legislation.

Responsibilities:

Maintain listserve(s):

Currently, LWVNMTopics, email address LWVNMTopics@yahoogroups.com

Yahoo username is **LWVNMModerator**

- Issue invitations to new Board members, when they change; remind membership statewide via local *Voters* that the list is available.
- Monitor "bounce" list, to remove nonfunctional email addresses. Contact members with bad email addresses.
- Set up additional lists, as needed.

Maintain Website:

League website is www.lwvnm.org, hosted by NMIA.com (New Mexico Internet Access).

Username is **lwvnm**, password _____ (*write in; do NOT store online*)

- Update website with information from the listserves, members, and each issue of *La Palabra*, shortly after it comes out – post PDF of *La Palabra*, obtained from Editor.
- Input annual calendar, as soon as it becomes available, or at least a month or two ahead of schedule.
- Flag special events on the home page and throughout site, as appropriate: elections and election-related material; events that are open to the public, new publications or links, etc.
- Keep up to date with educational information on Links/Forms page.
- Assist committees and study groups by posting information as requested.
- Put *Voters Guides*, *Who's Whos*, and *Voters Keys* up for public download and/or HTML.

Maintain Email Aliases:

Several aliases for forwarding email are set up:

president@lwvnm.org
 action@lwvnm.org
 membership@lwvnm.org
 lwvnm@lwvnm.org (goes to president)
 board@lwvnm.org (goes to all board members)
 webmaster@lwvnm.org

These need to be changed when the Board composition changes. Send a request to help@nmia.com, specifying where to “point” the alias: i.e.,
 webmaster@lwvnm.org -> cheryl@haaker.org

Contacts within League:

Name: Katherine Campbell **Phone/Email:** 505.662-3913 , ksmithcamp@cybermesa.com

Contacts outside League: (include name of organization/company/governmental entity, etc.)

Name:	Address:	Phone/Email:
NMIA Support staff <i>includes Norman W and David Taggart</i>	www.nmia.com	247-0888 help@nmia.com

Resources: (books, pamphlets, other materials)

Innumerable guides to XHTML and CSS.

Date form completed: updated 1/15/2008

FAIR REPRESENTATION – Study Group Update
Cheryl Haaker, Chair

The group has been meeting on the 4th Thursday each month, excluding November, which was done (unsuccessfully) by email, December, which met early due to Christmas and Janusey, which met earlier, to plan February presentations and may meet again before then.

Each month, at least two reports or other summary information are developed and posted to the web page, www.lwvabc.org/fair. Newly added: “Alternative Electoral Systems” by Katherine Campbell and “A snapshot of Three State Leagues Pursuing Redistricting Studies” by Judith Binder. Additional links and lists have been added to the web page, as well, including links to the International IDEA Handbook and a study of electoral methods by the Washington State League.

The group will be giving unit meetings in February, March, and April for all four local Leagues. Each presentation will outline the reasons for the study, define terms needed for understanding redistricting and representation, and discuss a series of questions designed to learn the membership’s feelings about what issues are important and where the League can make a difference. Summaries will be posted to the web page.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
O F N E W M E X I C O

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2008 EDUCATION PRIORITIES

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislation and adequate funding for public education that provides educational programs from early childhood through higher education that help ensure for all students optimal prospects for success throughout life. These include programs that:

- Develop mastery of knowledge and skills;
- Provide opportunities to develop an aesthetic awareness and creative abilities;
- Foster an understanding of basic economic and financial principles;
- Provide tools to make wise vocational choices, including adequate student advisement; and
- Address not only the intellectual but also the student's physical, social and emotional needs that are essential to academic learning.

Regarding financing of public education, the League supports:

- The goals of the New Mexico Funding Formula as an effort to achieve equality and as an attempt to provide fair funding for every child, based on need, regardless of location;
- A periodic review and modifications to assure that the formula is faithful to its original intention and is aligned with the constitutional mandate to provide a sufficient public education to all children of school age; and
- Local school district control of the distribution of funds from the state in conjunction with its approved Educational Plan for Student Success and appropriate measures to insure accountability.

Recognizing the critical role of teachers in students' learning, the League supports adequate funding to improve the preparation, recruitment, professional development, and retention of quality educators and their administrators.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that public education is fundamental to the understanding and maintenance of democracy and to the general well-being of individuals and of the natural environment. It believes that education should prepare individuals to be positive contributors to their families, classrooms, workplaces, and communities and to function within the global economy.

Jane Gaziano, LWVNM Education Chair, (505)989-8353, jeg7@aol.com

Jane Gaziano, Education Chair

I have consistently been attending interim committee meetings for the Legislative Education Study Committee and more recently the House Education Committee.

The topics that have generated bills from the LESC were reported in the last La Palabra and as of yet have not been assigned bill numbers.

In addition to what was previously reported and the subject of what will be some interesting discussion during the session is the proposal for revising the education funding formula. The main thrust of the proposal is its attempt to see that the formula follows the mandate of the NM Constitution to provide a sufficient public education to all children of school age. The question of what constitutes sufficiency was the subject of the phase I of the study done. Phase II was the cost analysis to determine the cost of supplying a sufficient education. Phase III was the development of the formula to determine the distribution of funds to achieve it.

The new formula is claimed to be simple, fair, minimizes incentives to chase funding, and comprehensive. Its emphasis shifts from being program based to being need based. The many factors used to adjust the base amount have been reduced to the four pupil need factors of poverty, ELL, mobility, and special education with school grade and scale factors remaining. Regarding staffing, the training and experience factor for teachers was removed, the center point for the base was recalibrated, and the index was adjusted for percent of budget allocated to ISQ eligible staff. The 40 day count to determine funding will be substituted as will be the districts' ability to retain cash balances.

The Education Plan for Student Success required by schools and districts and approved by PED will serve as the means to link programmatic elements to funding beyond the base amount (sufficient cost per pupil in an average sized district with average grade composition). The EPSS will be tied to local budgets with increased accountability measures added.

The cost to implement sufficiency is roughly 300 million dollars. The plan proposed will implement this over 3 years starting next year. Funding to support this could come from various sources including an increase in interest taken from the permanent fund, increase in gross receipts tax, increase in property obligations, increase in mineral taxes, and closing the combined corporate tax loophole.

On Friday, January 11, 2008 I made a presentation to the House Education Committee upon their invitation. Attached is a copy of my presentation approved by Kathy Campbell. Our public financing position supports periodic review and modifications, local control, and all efforts to maintain the formula's original intent to insure equity based on student need. I was pleased to be able to support the essence of new plan and some pending legislation based on our education positions. It was well received.